M. Faraday Esq
Royal Institution
By Mr Ronchetti
Albemarle St
London

Myddelton

I have been requested by the bearer, Mr Ronchetti of this town, to give him a few lines of introduction to you, and though well aware how much you are occupied, yet I cannot well refuse, the more especially as he is really a very deserving person, and one to whose ingenuity and skill I was much beholden so long as I could work the object, I believe, which he has in view, is to establish a son in London, to be in some way connected with him here, for the manufacture and sale of philosoph.l instruments; and it is in connexion with this object, that he is desirous to put a few questions to you — If you can, without inconvenience,

listen to him for quarter of an hour, you will be
seeing a very worthy and industrious man.

I have not yet thanked you for the copy
of your Experiments in Electricity. I was delighted
with them, and hope you will ere long unveil fresh
wonders in that most interesting field of inquiry.
Any papers you may have the goodness to send me,
will reach me thro' Longman's house under cover
to Messrs Clarke, Bookseller, Manchester —
Mayson who has lately taken to wife
the daughter of Mr Allan of Eden (when I think
you know, or at least by reputation as a mineralogist)
unites in kindest regards to you.

Believe me, my dear Sir,
very sincerely Yrs
W Henry

Manchester
Dec. 20 1832

DSI

I write in great haste and amidst many interruptions, and can only add that I am, Dear Sir,
very sincerely yours Will.m Henry

Dr Henry
6th Dec.r 1808

Dr Thomson
Edinb.r

Manchester 6 Dec. 1808

My dear Sir

Although at present I am exceedingly harried by professional business (which with me is not very usual) yet I cannot suffer this parcel to be committed to the coach, without inclosing a few lines, chiefly to say that I shall be most thankful for any strictures, which you may have to communicate. Since I received the copies, I have only had time to make a very hasty perusal of it, and I cannot answer for its pardon from more errors of the press than I have already discovered. Any of these, or blunders of a more important kind, if such there be, no one is so well qualified, by a thorough knowledge of the subject, to discover as you are, and you will greatly oblige me by freely pointing them out.

For some time past I have been buried in experiments connected with the improvement of the manufacture of British salt, and intended to discuss the cause of the superiority of foreign salt in curing provisions. My enquiry has already gone so far as to decide some important points. These I have not time even to abridge; but I will send you

the moment it appears, a copy of my paper from the Phil. Trans. to which I intend to transmit it. In the mean time, you would greatly oblige me by sending by Hargreaves's waggon from Bristo to St (the carrier is of some consequence as he is the only careful one) samples of all the varieties of sea salt manufactured near Edinb. The specimens should not be less than 4 oz. of each, and packed in bottles, which Mr. Scott of the South bridge will send you, if you apply to him. At the same time you would confer a great obligation by sending me about 1/2 a pint of the mother liquor of the salt-pans; and a short statement of the particulars of the manufacture, as the rate of evaporation &c &c. I cannot sufficiently apologize for asking of you what I know must be a hundred times so much trouble; but I really know no other person, to whom I could prefer the request. Hope the goodness to advise me by post when the samples are sent. Mr Scott will find you a packing case

&c &c

Last night I sent up to Mr. Davy the particulars of a very laborious experiment on the decomposition of ammonia, which I have just completed. My object was to determine whether or not it be possible to obtain oxygen gas by the electrization of the ammonia, when all oxidizable substances are excluded, except the mercury by which the gas is confined. Even this might be shut out by a little modification of the experiment. With this view, the platina wires were encased in glass tubes, which were sealed hermetically around them, so that all the platina exposed to the ammonia was a section of the extremity of each wire. The ammonia decomposed was 1.94 cub. inch = 362 grains. The residue of permanent gas was 3,87 cub. inches. By the most careful eudiometrical trials, Mr. Dalton & I found that (using nitr.e gas) it contained, at the highest result 2 per cent of oxygen; at the lowest 1.5. The common air at the extract was 1/2 a measure in 100, & the oxygen therefore 1/200. The total increase of oxygen was 0.074 cub. inch. The Nitrogen & hydrogen in the residue were to each other 28.678: 6,55 and the oxygen on the lowest estimate of 1½ per Cent 1.68 + to these numbers. Hence the weight of 100 ammonia are

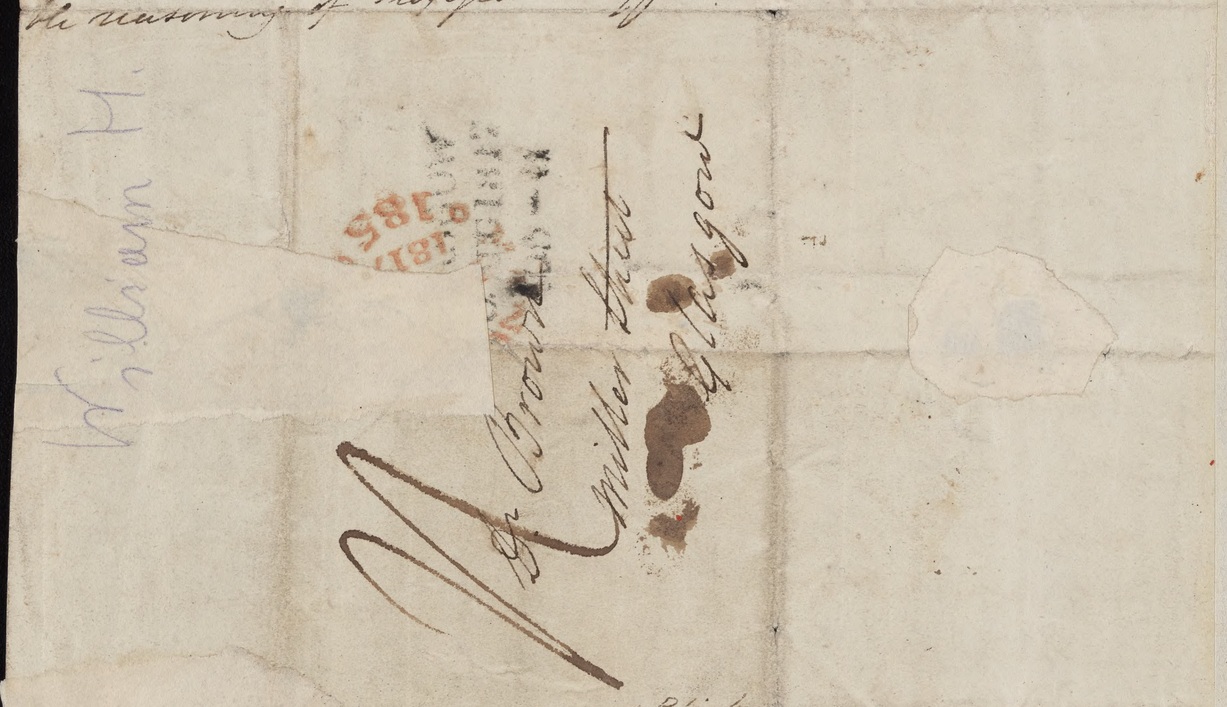
nitrogene	77.6
hydrogene	17.8
oxygene	4.6
	100

The proportions of hydrogen and nitrogen gases in the unabsorbed residue, as well as the amount of the expansion, differ a little from Mr. Davy's determination; but they agree, as nearly as possible, with the the results stated by Berthollet in the Journ. de Phys. for 1786. The details of my expt. will probably appear in Mr. Davy's next Bakerian Lecture, which will be read next Thursday evening

+ There was a manifest oxydation of the mercury

it, that I am deeply sensible of the esteem by which it has been prompted.

Now that [illegible] office is vacant, would it not be advisable to require that the future holder of it should not practice medicine. All the sound & forcible reasoning of Professor Playfair in the controversy [illegible]



[illegible] seems to me to apply with equal weight to a chemical lectureship. In the courses of Lectures which I formerly gave, I found employment for my whole time as long as they lasted, and though much may, no doubt, be done to abridge the labour by arrangements similar to those so successfully practised by Dr Hope, yet I cannot conceive even moderately extensive

medical practice to be otherwise than incompatible with daily lectures on any experimental science, and with that devotion of mind and ardent enthusiasm, which a public teacher ought to feel, and to kindle to a considerable degree in his hearers.

Believe me, my dear Sir, with sincere esteem and regard, Your obliged & faithful Servt
W Henry

Manchester 18 August 1817

My dear Sir

It is impossible that I can feel otherwise than highly gratified by your friendly letter which has this morning reached me, and by the flattering suggestion which it contains. To be thought worthy, by yourself and by my other friends at Glasgow, to fulfil the duties of a station of so much importance and usefulness as the one which has lately become vacant in your university, is of itself a distinction which I little expected, and which, (whatever might have been the result of my becoming a candidate) would have been unprecedented me with the most lively sense of obligation. As a

some of emolument, two, the office, (could I have succeeded to the extent of my own wishes in performing its duties) would have been the object of great consequence to me. But though I estimate most highly its value in this way, as well as in conferring scientific rank, yet I am compelled, by a variety of circumstances which for some years to come must bind me to this spot, to forego all intention of proposing myself for a situation, which, in almost every respect, would have been more agreeable to my taste and habits, than the sphere in which I am now moving. For some time past, I have been indeed, by habitual delicacy of health, to decline rather to seek an extension of medical practice, and as my family is a pretty large and an increasing one, I have made whenever I have been tolerably well, great exertions to extend my chemical manufacture,

Dr Hamilton

These exertions have been attended with all the success I could have expected; and from time to time I have been induced to lay out sums of money in buildings & utensils, the aggregate of which is to me of serious moment. I am of opinion, therefore, that it will be more consistent with my interests and happiness to persevere steadily in the course I am now pursuing, than to yield even to so strong a temptation as that which you hold out. Added to this, the very disqualification which unfits me for medical practice, would be a serious bar to my performing the duties of the proposed situation, with that regularity which would be absolutely necessary. Twice within the 4 or 5 last years, I have had attacks of haemoptysis, slight it is true, but still sufficient to render any situation ineligible, in which public speaking would be a necessary duty. That I may not, therefore, be the means of interfering with the views of any other candidate, I lose no time in declining your very kind and flattering suggestion, and in assuring you and my other friends who have concurred in

I have not omitted to mention the Journal where I thought it might possibly produce something, but I fear this is a barren soil. For myself (were I able to do any thing) I believe I must not desert our friend R. P.

Manchester Feby. 8th 1831.

My dear Sir

Accept my best thanks for a Copy of your second Edition rendered by its enlargement even more valuable than the original one, of which the chemical world, by its rapid Sale, has declared so favorable and well founded an opinion. My acknowledgments have been delayed by inability to use a pen. Soon after quitting London, I was obliged to get a tumour removed from within the flexor tendon of one of the left fingers, and had not recovered from this when I was again dismembered of the right hand by a painful affection, the issue of which is still uncertain. I am therefore, as you may suppose, a very helpless and useless person. Had it not been for this hindrance, I should have been engaged in one or two sets of experiments, for which I have been long waiting the conjunction of health and leisure. Of these, the first in order would have had for their object to determine whether there is only one or two species of phosphu.d Hydrogen

Gas, and collaterally to inquire into the true equivalent of Phosphorus, which you will doubtless agree with me is by no means well made out. But in this Town good manual assistance in the more refined analysis of gaseous bodies is quite unattainable, and I must wait patiently for the removal of this personal dis=qualification.

Having got your second Edition off your hands, you must permit me to say that I hope you will direct your next exertions to some of those more elevated topics of chemi=cal Philosophy, to which you have established your title to aspire. In the exercise of your public duties in the Roy=al Institution, you must necessarily, while treading the ground which has been already cleared, sometimes cast your Eye beyond its boundaries, and catch glimpses of extensive tracts, on which nothing more than a dawning light is yet shed. It is impossible for any one (even for a person like myself, whose energies of thought and purpose are on the wane) not to be warmed into something like enthusiasm, when fancy pictures the glories that are yet to be won in the fields of chemical Science. These bright though distant prospects will, I trust, tempt you to open and to pursue paths that may lead you to great discoveries, to the benefit of Science, and to the increase of your own honorable fame

I was sorry that I could make so little use of your kindly offered hospitalities while I remained in Town. Some business of no very agreeable nature took me daily into the City, and I need not say to a Londoner how incom=patible are visits, on the same day, to the eastern and western extremities of your overgrown Metropolis. One evening, however, I did call to have taken tea with you, but found you from home

I beg my kind regards to Mrs Faraday. Say to her that Mrs Henry and my daughters will cheerfully under=take to find Amusement for her on your promised visit, while you and I explore objects that might not interest her.

Believe me my dear Sir
very faithfully yours
Wm Henry

My Son desires his best remembrance to you. He is busied in thinking, and preparing to experiments, not on Chemistry, which is forbidden ground to a Physician, but on an interesting subject of Physiology.

W H

HENRY'S CHEMISTRY.
In 2 vols. 8vo. 11. 14s. boards, New Edition,

ELEMENTS of EXPERIMENTAL CHEMISTRY. By WM. HENRY, M.D. F.R.S. &c. The tenth edition, comprehending all the Recent Discoveries; and illustrated with ten plates by Lowry, and several engravings on wood.—London: printed for Baldwin, Cradock, and Joy, Paternoster-row; and R. Hunter, St. Paul's Church-yard.

Dr William Henry, to whom the science of chemistry generally, and of gaseous chemistry in particular, is under great obligations. He was the author of nine papers in our Transactions, many of them of great merit; and his System of Chemistry is one of the best written and best arranged compendiums of that important and extensive science, which has been published of late years, whether in our own language or in any other. The Memoirs of the Manchester Society are chiefly indebted to him, in conjunction with Dr Dalton, for the high character which they have so long maintained. Dr Henry, like Dr Wollaston, made the results of science, obtained by the most original and difficult researches, the foundation of a splendid fortune, and few persons have contributed more effectually, by their discoveries and exertions to the promotion of those arts and manufactures which form the foundation of the prosperity of a great commercial nation.

(From an address by His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, delivered at the anniversary meeting of the Royal Society, November 30th 1836.)

AUTOGRAPHE

de

Henry

William

OBSERVATIONS

L.a.s. 2 p.4°, Manchester, 20.12.1832, mit eigh. Adresse an Faraday, warmes Empfehlungsschreiben für Mr. Ronchetty aus Manchester, der einen Sohn in London unterbringen will, dankt F. für seine Sendung des Buches „Experiments in Electricity" und bittet ihn um weitere Sendungen./Aus Sammlung Dr. Löwenfeld./

2.L.a.s. 3 1/4 p.4°, Manchester, 6.12.1808, mit eigh. Adr. an Dr. Thomson in Edinbourgh; spricht über seine grosse berufliche Inanspruchnahme, die es ihm sehr erschwert, die Korrektur der eingesendeten Kopien durchzuführen, behandelt sodann seine Experimente zum Zwecke der Verbesserung d. britischen Salzerzeugung und zur Klarstellung der Ursachen der Ueberlegenheit fremder Salzarten. Er bittet auch um Uebersendung v. Mustern aller Arten von Seesalz, dasin der Nähe von Edinbourgh gewonnen wird und gibt Weisungen über die Expedition derselben. Er sendet an Davy alle Einzelheiten über Versuche, die er angestellt hat um festzustellen, ob man durch Elektrolyse von Ammoniak Sauerstoff erhalten kann. Erwähnt Dalton, bespricht die Uebereinstimmung seiner Resultate mit denen von Berthollet im Journal de Physique 1786 und glaubt, dass die Details seiner Versuche in Davy's nächster Bakervorlesung zum Vortrage gelangen werden.

H e n r y William.

Sohn der Vorigen. Dr. Med. u. Besitzer chemischer Fabriken bei Manchester / Manchest. Mem. Ser. II., Vol. VI. 1842./,
geb. 1774, Dec. 12, Manchester
gest. 1836, Sept 2, Pendlebury b. Manchester.

The elements of experimental chemistry, 2 vol. S°, Lond. 1799, 11 th edit 1829. Experiments on carbonated hydrogenous gas, with a wiew to determine whether carbon be a simple or a compound substance / Phil. Tr. 1797/. Exprmts. for decomposing the muriatic acid / Ib. 1800/. On the quantity of gases absorbed by water at different temperatures and under different pressures /Ib. 1830/. Descript. of an apparatus of the analysis of the compound inflammable gases by slow combustion etc./Ib. 1808/. On ammonia and an account of a new method of analysing by

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HENRY (William, M.D., F.R.S., *chemical writer and manufacturer*, 1774-1836) A.L.S. (W. HENRY), Manchester 18 August 1817, to 'Dr. Brown, Miller Street, Glasgow,' 4 pages 4to., £1, 10*s*

Giving his reasons for not applying for the professorship of chemistry of Glasgow University (because he prefers to develop his chemical manufacture). . . . 'I cannot conceive even moderately extensive medical practice to be otherwise than incompatible with daily lectures on any experimental science.' .

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£1, 10*s*

. . . 'I cannot urge you to give us this lecture if you do not feel that you can spare the time, but I can say tha
rule the Society has a very select and large audience, a constant attendent being Sir W. Grove and many others
Royal Society.' . . .

5739 —— A.L.S. (D. E. HUGHES), 40 Langham Street, Portland Place, W., Oct. 22 1897, to the sa